Alleged corruption in National Rural Health Mission

†2966. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints from World Bank regarding corruption in National Rural Health Mission;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith date of receipt of such complaints;

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard, so far;

(d) the time by which the CBI has been asked to complete the investigation;

(e) the details of the assistance withheld by the World Bank; and

(f) the steps taken by Government to ensure that the National Rural Health Mission may not adversly be affected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Consequent upon receipt of complaints by World Bank regarding allegations of irregularities in procurement of drugs under Reproductive & Child Health (RCH) project during the period of 1997-2002, the Bank conducted a review of the procurement done under RCH. The World Bank's report of investigation into RCH-I project is strictly confidential and is to be shared with the government officials on a confidential and need to know basis. It has nothing to do with the National Rural Health Mission. Department has taken the following actions on the basis of the World Bank report:-

- any further business has been suspended with the firms who had colluded with other firms to win majority of the contracts for procurement under RCH-I
- Two officials, one each from M/s HLL and M/s HSCC Ltd., the Procurement Support Agencies (PSAs) to the Department under RCH-I, have been suspended.
- The Department has requested CBI to undertake an inquiry to investigate all allegations leading to the finding in the World Bank report. CBI has been requested to complete the inquiry at an early date.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- Various actions have been taken to strengthen the procurement capabilities in the Department, PSAs to the Department of empowered Procurement Wing (EPW) in the Department.

(e) and (f) The World Bank in its negotiations held with the Ministry has given an indicative commitment of US$ 350 Million for Reproductive and Child Health Programme, Phase-II for the period from 2005-06 to 2009-10. The Project is yet to be approved by the World Bank. The Government of India is committed to implement the programme of RCH-II from its own budgetary support even if World Bank assistance is not available. The RCH-II which is the flagship programme under NRHM has not faced any financial constraint as the requirements have been made available from the domestic budgetary support.

Quota for Medical PG admissions

2967. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI DARA SINGH:

Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of medical colleges in the country, indicating such colleges being run/funded by the Centre;

(b) whether Government have decided that apart from MBBS, 27 per cent OBC quota will be included to post-graduate courses like MD and MS;

(c) whether total reservation in medical colleges will now go up from the existing 22.5 per cent (for SC and ST students) to 49.5 per cent; if so, what provision is made for providing additional admission seats/financial assistance for 2006-07; and

(d) whether the Indian Medical Association (IMA) has opposed reservation quota system and requested Government "not to sacrifice merit to populist politics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) At present there are 242 medical college in the country. The medical colleges being run/funded by the Centre are: